

Human rights expert accepts U.S. offer to visit Guantanamo

By Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service

A human rights specialist from Europe has accepted the U. S. offer to visit the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba, a senior Defense Department official announced Dec. 13.

Anne-Marie Lizin, a Belgian politician and a representative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, will be able to tour the facility and ask questions of its command and staff, but she'll not be permitted to visit with detainees, DoD spokesman Bryan Whitman told Pentagon reporters.

"She'll have access similarly to what you guys have when you go down there and observe our operations," Whitman told the reporters.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, Whitman said, is the only organization that's allowed to conduct interviews with the detainees. About 500 detainees are housed at Guantanamo today, according to officials.

"The ICRC remains the entity that has the privilege and the responsibilities of



Photo by Chief Petty Officer John F. Williams

A detainee leader is read camp rules at Guantanamo Bay.

interfacing directly with the detainees," Whitman said. The ICRC has conducted routine visits to the Guantanamo detention facility since it opened in 2002. It releases its findings of those visits only to the United States.

The Defense Department had announced the U.S. government's decision to extend its invitation to Lizin in a news release Dec. 9.

"Although department policy does not provide for such visits to military deten-

tion facilities, the department has determined on an exceptional basis to extend this invitation," the DoD release stated. "The department strives for transparency in our operations to the extent possible in light of security and operational requirements and the need to ensure the safety of our forces."

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe can trace its beginning to the 1970s during the Cold War. Its predecessor, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, was established in 1972 to foster dialogue in Europe between East and West. Today the OSCE has 55 members, including the United States.

The U.S. government provides a multiagency OSCE liaison team, with representatives from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the State Department and other agencies, according to the U.S. Mission to the OSCE's Web site.

Hope arrives to packed Lyceum



This was the cutline that appeared in the Guantanamo Bay Gazette back on Dec. 30, 1971.

RADM Brian McCauley introduces Hope to Mrs. McCauley upon the comedian's arrival in Guantanamo Bay Dec. 30, 1971. Hope's GTMO visit was cut short due to the death of Gen. Emmitt 'Rosie' O'Donnel, president of the USO and close friend of Hope's.



Photo by JO1 Bob Lamb

Ultimate Goal — Tomomi Niece (Naval Hospital) tries to defend off Faith Walker (W.T. Sampson Pirates) on Friday night, during the Womens MWR Soccer playoffs. Friday nights game had to be decided with a shoot-out, which the W.T. Sampson Pirates finally prevailed sending them into the final three. Womens first place, GTMO United; second place, Soccer Bombers; third place, W.T. Sampson Pirates.

W.T. Sampson Schools Important dates:

- Jan. 3:** School begins.
- Jan. 10:** PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Elementary School Gym.
- Jan. 10:** Booster Club Meeting. 6:30 p.m. High School Library.
- Jan. 11:** SAC Meeting, 6:30 p.m. High School Library.
- Jan. 12:** Sports Banquet, 5 p.m. Community Center.
- Jan. 16:** Martin Luther King Day, No School.
- Jan. 20:** No School for students, Teacher-In-Service.
- Jan. 23-26:** Finals for MS/HS students.
- Jan. 26:** Last day of second quarter and first semester. 1 1 a.m. early dismissal for MS/HS students
- Jan. 27:** No school for students, Teacher shop.